GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:294
ANSWERED ON:05.12.2007
STRIKE BY CHEMISTS
Athawale Shri Ramdas

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of occasions the chemists supplying medicines under the Central Government Health Scheme has been on strike during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; (

(c) the reasons for repeated strikes by these chemists;

(d) the impact of repeated strikes by the said chemists on the CGHS beneficiaries; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 294 FOR 5TH DECEMBER, 2007

Chemists at the CGHS, Delhi, had resorted to strike during the last 3 years on the dates as mentioned below:-

8.3.2004 to 4.4.2004
26.8.2004 to 31.8.2004
17.2.2005 to 28.2.2005
25.3.2005 to 18.4.2005
24.11.2005 to 14.12.2005
16.01.2007 to 17.01.2007

The reason for the strike was mostly due to non-payment of their bills due to paucity of funds near the end of the financial year and it took time to seek additional funds for clearing the bills of the Chemists. In March, 2005, the Chemists had also raised the issue of introduction of VAT by the Government of NCT of Delhi.

Authorised Local Chemists in CGHS, Thiruvananthapuram, had stopped supply of medicines to dispensaries in that city due to non-payment of bills w.e.f 29.10.2007. Now the Chemists have resumed supply of medicine to the dispensaries in Thiruvananthapuram on 7.11.2007. During February-March, 2005, two out of the three authorized local chemists with the CGHS, Patna, stopped supply of medicines due to non-payment.

Whenever Chemists resorted to strike, the beneficiaries were allowed to purchase the same from the open market and claim reimbursement.